

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 /017 W
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O P 021445Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1597
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS PRAGUE 3444

ZAGREB FOR LAPO ESCORT JONES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJ: LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

REFS: (A) ZAGREB 1013; (B) STATE 293207; (C) PRAGUE 3432

1. AS OF 3:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME DEC. 2 LAPO TRANSPORTATION
SOFIA-PRAGUE DECEMBER 8 UNRESOLVED ISSUE. FYI: CZECHOSLOVAK
AIRLINES INFORMS US REASON ORIGINAL TRANSPORTATION PLANS
FELL THROUGH IS THAT PROPER AVIATION GASOLINE FOR ITS
PLANES WAS NOT AVAILABLE IN SOFIA. END FYI.

2. AT PRESENT THREE PROPOSALS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION:
FIRST IS SENDING AN IL-62 CARGO PLANE WITH 96 PASSENGER
SEATS IN A SEPARATE COMPARTMENT TO SOFIA DEC. 7. THIS
WOULD ALLOW FOR POST-CONCERT LOADING OF PROPERTIES
AND 10:00 A.M. DEPARTURE DECEMBER 8 FOR TWO HOUR SOFIA-
PRAGUE FLIGHT. REMAINING 21 LAPO MEMBERS WOULD FOLLOW
BY SCHEDULED NOON BALCANAIR FLIGHT SOFIA-PRAGUE, AS
PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED.

3. WE FULLY APPRECIATE LAPO'S EXTRAORDINARY DIFFICULTIES
ON THE BUDAPEST-WARSAW LEG OF ITS EASTERN EUROPEAN TOUR,
BUT BELIEVE THEY CAN BE AVOIDED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:
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A) PASSENGERS WOULD BE IN ENTIRELY SEPARATE COMPARTMENT

FROM CARGO. B) FORWARD TWO SECTIONS OF SEATS WOULD BE REMOVED FROM PLANE, WITH PROPERTIES SECURELY STORED THERE. PRAGUE AIRPORT BAGGAGEMASTER WILL PERSONALLY ACCOMPANY P&C OFFICER AND SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE TO SOFIA DECEMBER 7 TO SUPERVISE LOADING. C) LENGTHY MEETING BETWEEN CSA TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONS STAFF AND PAO INCLUDING CALCULATION OF WEIGHT AND VOLUME OF LAPO PROPERTIES AND PERSONAL BAGGAGE PLUS SEATING SPACE AND CARGO SPACE IN PLANE, ASSURES US THIS IS A WORKABLE SOLUTION. D) WITH PROPERTIES BEING LOADED IN POST-CONCERT PERIOD, UNINHABITED MORNING DEPARTURE SHOULD BE ALLOWED.

4. WHILE THIS APPEARS TO BE MOST FEASIBLE SOLUTION, WE STILL DO NOT HAVE ASSURANCES FROM PRAGOKONCERT-CSA THAT IT IS POSSIBLE.

5. SECOND POSSIBILITY, WHICH WE RAISED WITH PRAGOKONCERT, IS DEPARTMENT CHARTER OF TRIDENT 3 AND MERCHANTMAN FREIGHTER FROM BEA, AS DISCUSSED REF A. EMBASSY HAS ASKED PRAGOKONCERT-CSA TO OBTAIN LANDING RIGHTS FOR THESE PLANES ON A SOFIA-PRAGUE, PRAGUE VIENNA ROUTE. (THE PRAGUE-BRATISLAVA-VIENNA TRANSPORTATION OF ORCHESTRA AND PROPERTIES IS ALREADY ARRANGED, ACCORDING TO PRAGOKONCERT.) PRAGOKONCERT WILL RAISE THIS QUESTION AT MEETING LATER TODAY WITH CSA. LANDING RIGHTS QUESTION A STOCKY ONE HERE, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

6. "OTHER SOLUTION" MIGHT BE, ACCORDING TO PRAGOKONCERT, RENTAL OF NECESSARY CARGO AND PASSENGER PLANES FROM BALCANAIR, OR SOME OTHER DIVERSION OF FLIGHTS TO ACHIEVE THIS END.

7. ALL PARTIES MEETING AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. WILL ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE.

8. CONFIRMING MEHTA TV INTERVIEW DECEMBER 10, LATE AFTERNOON, IN BRATISLAVA.
BYRNE

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